

Remarks

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 10-12 and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over El-Rashidy in view of Place et al. Applicants respectfully disagree because the combination of El-Rashidy and Place et al. does not teach or suggest the presently claimed method of treating sexual arousal disorder using an estrogen agonist/antagonist, and optionally, a cyclic guanosine 3', 5'-monophosphate elevator.

First, the El-Rashidy patent discusses only the administration of a combination of sildenafil and apomorphine. Nowhere is an estrogen agonist/antagonist, as is presently claimed, even mentioned. Moreover, nowhere is it taught or suggested that a compound other than a combination of at least sildenafil and apomorphine can be used to treat sexual arousal disorder in females.

The Place et al. article does not supply the elements of the presently claimed invention that are neither taught nor suggested in El-Rashidy. Place et al. is concerned with the local administration of vasodilating agents to the vagina or vulva. Nowhere in Place et al. is a cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate elevator mentioned. Also, Place does not teach or suggest the administration of an estrogen agonist/antagonist to treat sexual arousal disorder. Only in combination with other compounds is an estrogen agonist/antagonist even mentioned in Place et al. Moreover, neither El-Rashidy nor Place et al. mention the particular estrogen agonists/antagonists that are recited in claims 2, 3, 4 and 5.

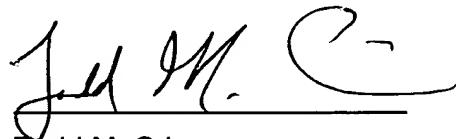
Last, there is no motivation to combine El-Rashidy and Place et al. Place et al. is concerned only with the local administration of compounds to the vagina or vulva and El-Rashidy is concerned with the particular administration of sildenafil and apomorphine. Thus, there can be no suggestion to use an estrogen agonist/antagonist either alone or in combination with a cyclic guanosine 3', 5' monophosphate elevator to treat sexual arousal disorder in females.

Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of El-Rashidy and Place et al. does not teach or suggest that an estrogen agonist/antagonist either alone or in combination with a cyclic guanosine 3', 5' monophosphate elevator could be used to treat sexual arousal disorder in females and that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that, in view of the remarks made above, this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 10-12 and 40-43 is respectfully requested.

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